

REMARKS

This amendment is being presented in response to the outstanding Office Action and the Notice of Non-compliant Amendment. Acknowledgement of the allowance of claims 1-18 is hereby made. Since new claims 19-37 track the original 18 claims, it is believed that they are also in condition for allowance.

Some very minor grammatical and syntactical amendments have been made to claims 1, 3 and 18. The term "at" has been added before "at least" in the final clause of claims 1 and 3. The punctuation mark ";" has been replaced with ":" in claim 18.

Claim 2 has been amended in accordance with the detailed action replacing the relative terms "substantially all" with the terms "a plurality". These terms have also been replaced in the same way in claim 9 which has now been based on claim 3 to distinguish it from claim 8. Appropriate correction has been made to the informality identified in Claim 10.

New independent claims 19, 29 and 34 make reference to signs for displaying discussion topics and now provide an even better description of the invention. Signs for displaying discussion topics have extensive basis in the description in paragraphs 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 and elsewhere. In other respects the new independent claims 19 and 29 are very similar to the original independent claims 1 and 3.

Amendments have also been made to better reflect embodiments of the invention that do not rely exclusively on the use of a remote control. New independent claim 34 refers to "control means", ref paragraph 45 of the description. In the previous submission, dependent claims were predicated only on claim 1 (remote control). Dependent claims have now also been based on claim 29 (local control) and claim 34 (control means). These new dependent claims are very similar to the original dependent claims.

Finally the applicant would like to thank the examiner for his very helpful assistance.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine this application in light of this amendment, and pass claims 1-37 onto Issuance.

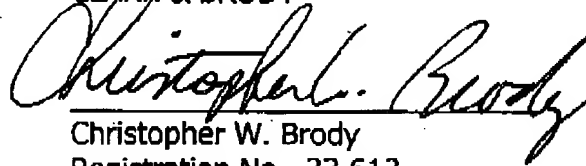
If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

The above constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Office Action of October 4, 2005.

Again, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Please charge deposit account no. 50-1088 the amount of \$725.00 for extra claim fees (17 extra dependent claims and 3 independent claims). Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overcharges to deposit account no. 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,
CLARK & BRODY



Christopher W. Brody
Registration No. 33,613

Customer No. 22902

1090 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: 202-835-1111
Facsimile: 202-835-1755
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